

**MINUTES**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**April 1-2, 2004**

Lansing Center  
333 E. Michigan  
Lansing  
-and-  
Stevens T. Mason Building  
530 W. Allegan  
Lansing

**PRESENT FOR THE COMMISSION**

Mary Brown  
Keith Charters, Chairman  
Bob Garner  
Jerry Hall  
John Madigan  
Frank Wheatlake

**ABSENT FOR THE COMMISSION**

Bill Parfet

**PRESENT FOR STAFF**

K. L. Cool, Director (Friday Only)  
A. Michael Leffler, Office of the Attorney General  
George Burgoyne, Resource Management Deputy  
Jim Ekdahl, Upper Peninsula Field Deputy  
Dennis Knapp, Special Assistant to the Director  
Department Staff

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**Chairman Charters** called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2004. The Committee of the Whole is a working session of the NRC. **George Burgoyne** was present on behalf of Director Cool.

**Bovine TB Update and Budget Issues**

**Dr. Joan Arnoldi, State Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture**, reviewed discussions from earlier that day during the Commission of Agriculture meeting. That Commission had unanimously voted to support the Memorandum of Understanding regarding split-state status for bovine tuberculosis (TB). A final rule is expected within a week. Proposed TB management zones were also discussed. The proposal creates zones more like those set by the federal government. These zones include: modified accredited zone that would include all counties currently in the infected and surveillance zones. The remainder of the state would be deemed modified accredited advanced. Meetings will be held in the affected areas to educate the public and ensure the public is aware of the regulations. Cattle and deer will be required to be tested as they cross the Mackinaw Bridge effective June 1. **Dr. Arnoldi** noted that the Upper Peninsula

citizens are pleased with this proposal; those in the "modified accredited advance" are somewhat pleased; and those in the "modified accredited" area will not be pleased as this program will create more expense for those who raise cattle.

**Chairman Charters** questioned whether the TB monitoring budget was cut by the Legislature. **Rebecca Humphries** responded that the Senate reduced the TB appropriation by \$500,000 and indicated that this eliminates the research portion. It is, however, early in the process and that DNR administrative staff will work to have that funding restored in the House Legislative appropriations process.

#### **Island Lake Shooting Range**

**Dennis Knapp, Special Assistant to the Director**, reported that on January 17, 2004, sound testing was done at and around the Island Lake Shooting Range during a sporting clay tournament. He introduced **Scott Hansen, Hansen Consulting**, an acoustics expert, who presented the testing report.

On January 17, ten minute measurements were taken at eight locations while approximately 95 shooters participated in the sports clays competition. Several metrics were recorded including maximum, peak and equivalent sound pressure levels. Maximum sound pressure levels of shooting activities were in the range of 40 to 80 dBA in several measurement locations. These sound pressure levels exceed the Green Oak Township Noise Regulations that limits sounds not to exceed 65 decibels beyond the property line. Recommendations for helping to achieve the regulatory sound levels were discussed including barriers, berms and screens. Because of the sporting clay firing line, covers or shooting shed offer a more appropriate solution for reduction of sound from sporting clays.

Current use of shooting sheds has been limited to military applications utilizing rifles and pistols which both shoot on horizontal planes. Sheds will need to be designed for sporting clay applications which employ elevated shooting angles. **Messrs. Knapp and Hansen** presented a prototype of a shooting shed and stated that this prototype would need further design modifications.

**Mr. Knapp** stated that the DNR will be working with consultants and engineers to design and construction a shed, then conduct testing. Once it is determined that the shed is successful, one will be placed at each sporting clay shooting site. He stated that the goal is to have them on site by Memorial Day and noted that time is of the essence.

Discussion ensued. **Commissioner Hall** suggested utilizing apprentices to build the sheds and that he would research and recommend options.

\* \* \*

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

\* \* \*

**Michael Leffler** left the meeting

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Chairman Charters** called the regular meeting of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to order at 4:45 p.m.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Rob Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Susan Anderson, Milford  
Bill Bobier, MUCC  
Mike Borst, Multi-Lakes Conservation Association  
Rich Bowman, Trout Unlimited  
Gary Brtsch, Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority  
Andy Buchsbaum, National Wildlife Federation  
Doug Carr, Brighton Township  
Marilyn Carr, Brighton Township  
Pat Collom, DMU 118 Property Owner  
Guy Dobies, Brighton  
James Fackert, Green Oak Township  
Geo Fuhst, Redford  
Lynn Gould, Mid-Michigan Sportsman's Alliance  
Leon Hank, Quality Deer Management Association  
Larry Holcomb, Olivet  
Lillian Hopkins, Brighton  
Ed Ingvarsen, Ionia  
Jim Juhnke, DMU 118 Hunter  
Jeanne Kidle, Flint  
George Lindquist, UP Whitetails of Marquette County  
Leonard Mannausa  
Chauncy Moran  
Ellen Nitz, Brighton  
John Ormsbee, Afton Deer Management, Inc.  
Ken Peterson, Flat Rock  
Tim Rice, Brighton  
Perry Russo, Quality Deer Management Association  
Randy Smith, Whitetails Forever Network  
Ed Spinazzola, Quality Deer Management Association  
Barbara Stockford, Hillsdale  
Michael Thiede, Lincoln Park  
Ronaly Umphrey, Clare  
Barry Warner, Green Oak Township  
Rick Weigand, Brighton  
Jenness Weigand, Brighton  
Marc Yenkel, Quality Deer Management Association

**Chairman Charters** announced that comments received relative to the Island Lake Shooting Range at the May meeting will be held to a total of 15 minutes.

**Commissioner Garner** recognized students from Dr. Ben Peyton's MSU Class.

**Bill Bobier, MUCC**, introduced **Andy Buchsbaum, National Wildlife Federation**. **Mr. Bobier** requested that the metallic minerals leases slated for Director's action on the agenda be put on hold. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) workgroup has been established to review

metallic minerals leases and lease policy and he suggested holding these leases until that workgroup can complete its reviews.

**Rich Bowman, Trout Unlimited**, supported Mr. Bobier's request, but reemphasized that he is not taking position on leases before the Director. He stated that there have not been significant problems with mining activities in fishing waters, but that there may be some issues and they wish to review what is necessary to protect state lands and the overall environment. The DEQ's workgroup has a charge to be initiated in 30 days and to complete their review in 120 days. Suggested that the NRC Policy Committee on Land Management may want to parallel this workgroup's activities.

**Andy Buchsbaum** supported the delay of action on the proposed metallic minerals leases.

**Chairman Charter** questioned if the Committee was in effect. **Mr. Bobier** responded that letters have been sent out to perspective Workgroup members. **Commissioner Wheatlake** questioned what they perceive the NRC Policy Committee on Land Management to do in this process. **Mr. Bobier** responded that they would like the Committee to review the lease and the leasing policy. Discussion ensued.

**Randy Smith, Whitetails Forever Network**, opposed to mandatory QDM and requested that a five-year moratorium be put on mandatory QDM in DMU 118. **Mr. Smith** supported Rebecca Humphries for the position of Director of the DNR.

**Rob Anderson, Michigan Farm Bureau**, supported the following: 1) proposed regulations for QDM; 2) proposed regulations for the late antlerless season; and 3) fall wild turkey regulations. He referred to the 2004 Michigan Farm Bureau Policy Manual and brought attention to the wildlife management policy; the Commission system of government; the diagnostics center at MSU being an important component of the wildlife disease testing; game farms and hunting preserves; landowner liability; the recommendation in the law enforcement section requesting that back tags be utilized for deer hunting; strict enforcement of trespassers; and oil and gas/mineral rights. He stated that Michigan Farm Bureau and the DNR staff have good working relationships and said that they are actively engaged with the Legislative process to get the \$500,000 reinstated for TB testing. Commissioners expressed appreciation for their participation in the Legislature process relative to DNR programs, and asked that they continue to work with the Legislative on issues important to the operation of the DNR.

**Gary Bartsch, Huron Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA) Director and Dan Duncan, HCMA Planner** briefly explained their proposal to build a bridge for non-motorized, public use over the Huron River within Hudson Mills Metropark. They explained that the bridge is an integral part of a planned hiking and biking trail within Hudson Mills Metropark, providing outdoor appreciation and education opportunities as well as addressing health and safety issues for trail users. The bridge will be a low profile single span with abutments 20 to 40 feet back from the edge of the river. In addition, the bridge will be placed on the abutments by crane from the east side so there will be no disturbance of the river itself. The abutments will be faced with area rock and native plant materials. They have obtained funding from a variety of sources, in addition to HCMA, including the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Washtenaw County Parks, and The Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan. HCMA is coming to the Department for permission because this location falls within a stretch of the Huron River that has been designated as a Country Scenic River under the State's Natural Rivers Program. Commissioner Charters asked what action HCMA wanted from the Commission. **Mr. Bartsch** explained that they were simply asking for support in their request of the Department. **Resource Management Deputy Burgoyne** told the Commission that **Director Cool** would be making a comment on this matter during the Director's Report on Friday.

**Ed Spinazzola, Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA)**, proposed that a fawn and yearling buck research program in selected areas in the UP be done to determine survival improvement when fawns and yearling bucks enter the winter season in better shape due to being nutritionally well fed and/or yearling bucks being suppressed due to dominance and subordination. He offered that QDMA would assist in this program.

**Perry Russo, QDMA**, referred to a letter sent to the NRC from retired DNR wildlife biologist John Ozoga. In his letter, Mr. Ozoga noted that DMU 118 QDM survey results did not meet the 66 percent approval rate to continue QDM in DMU 118. He noted that this survey was taken after four years versus five years as the study was intended. He encouraged the NRC to extend QDM in DMU 118 for the 2004 deer season, change the antler restrictions to four points on a side, and revamp the hunter and landowner survey.

**Leon Hank, QDMA**, reinforced his concern with winter severity in the UP and desires to do anything possible to trim the loss of the deer population in the UP. He supported the suggestions made in John Ozoga's letter.

**Commissioner Madigan** believes UP hunters are practicing QDM. **Commissioner Garner** supports the QDM concept and practices it on his land, but he does not believe mandatory QDM is appropriate as he does not want to make law abiding hunters violators in the event they mistakenly shoot a button buck.

**Pat Collom** owns property in DMU 118. He said he was originally opposed to mandatory QDM, but has changed his mind because he has noticed better quality bucks recently. He requested that the QDM survey be redone.

**Leonard Mannausa**, commented on the environmental contamination to the Detroit River from Grassy Island and asked that the State do everything in its power to return Grassy Island to the wildlife refuge it was.

**Rick Weigand, Brighton**, thanked the NRC and DNR for conducting sound tests to confirm what they those living near the Island Lake Shooting Range have been saying. He questioned whether the sound levels can be reduced to 65 decibels at the property line.

**Jenness Weigand, Brighton**, asked that the Island Lake Shooting Range be closed until sound abatement can be done. She does not wish to go through two more months of the current sound levels coming from the Range.

**Doug Carr, Brighton Township**, stated that the sound meter he has been using to check noise levels from the Island Lake Shooting Range is a calibrated meter. **Commissioner Garner** asked what he wants as an outcome of this process. **Mr. Carr** responded that he wants the sound abated to 65 decibels at the perimeter of the range.

**Marilyn Carr, Brighton**, presented a home video recorded at Kensington Park, and nearby locations indicating that the sounds from the Island Lake Shooting Range are heard there also.

**Commissioner Garner** noted that, from recording device to recording device, sounds can be replayed differently.

**Lillian Hopkins, Brighton**, interviewed several individuals in the park regarding sounds from range. Of those who she replayed their comments, most were disappointed with the sounds coming from the Island Lake Shooting Range. She said that Kensington Park is negatively impacted on a daily basis.

**Ellen Nitz, Brighton**, presented a home video from the dam on the Huron River near the perimeter of the Island Lake Shooting Range. She said this is evidence that the berms surrounding the Range are not effective.

**Guy Dobies, Brighton**, thanked the NRC and DNR for their continued efforts to abate sound at the Island Lake Shooting Range and urged the NRC and DNR to continue sound testing at the range to ensure sound issues are abated. He recommended that Range hours be reduced to end at 4:00 p.m. on weekdays, close at noon on Saturdays and be closed on Sunday.

**Barry Warner, Green Oak Township**, resided south of the Island Lake Shooting Range. He does not believe that the proposed sound abatement methods will help those residing in his direction.

**Jim Juhnke** hunts in Clare County (DMU 118). On behalf of his hunting group, he does not believe that QDM works on a voluntary basis and urged the NRC to continue the mandatory QDM process. He suggested expanding the process to allow no less than six point bucks to be harvested. He said that, even without mandatory QDM regulations, his hunting group will practice it. However, without the control over a wide area, the program will probably not survive.

**John Ormsbee, President, Afton Deer Management, Inc.**, reviewed issues he and those in the corporation believed need addressing to insure a healthy deer herd well into the future in Cheboygan County as follows: Planting deer plots; timber cutting in smaller areas; tree trimming to maintain healthy trees; reduce or eliminate doe permits in the county for the 2004 hunting season; shorten the deer hunting season with the bow season one week prior to the opening day of rifle season and black powder season run concurrently with rifle season; require successful hunters to be required to take the deer to a designated location and get a kill tag providing a more accurate harvest count; support deer feeding in a planned, controlled environment on state lands; and assign one or more DNR officers to the area to reduce poaching.

**George Lindquist, UP Whitetails of Marquette County**, recommended that deer harvest limit be adjusted in the UP. He thanked the Deer Range Improvement Program for focusing on winter habitat. He also commended the NRC for their decision to allow supplemental feeding for the Lake Superior counties, although he stated most look forward to a time when supplemental feeding would not be necessary.

**Lynn Gould, Mid-Michigan Sportsman's Alliance**, thanked the NRC for their patience and understanding during deliberations on QDM in DMU 118.

**Marc Yenkel** supports maintaining the current QDM regulations in DMU 118 of three points to a side; believes that data shows that mandatory QDM in DMU 118 is working; believes that it is the minority in opposition to QDM; believes there is overall support for QDM in the area; and believes the survey results were skewed. He requested that current antler restrictions in DMU 118 remain allowing more time for studying progress and to extend the demonstration for one additional year and resurvey at the end of that year. He said that not doing as he recommended ignores sound deer management strategies, sets deer management back several years, supports the vocal minority and will cause hunters to go out-of-state to hunt. **Mr. Yenkel** invited the DNR and NRC to attend the National QDMA Convention in Grand Rapids on June 24-26.

**Larry Holcomb, Olivet**, discussed deer management statewide. He recommended the following: 1) not more than 40 deer per square mile with a state average of less than 30; 2) strive for a doe to buck ratio of 2:1; 3) stop all baiting and feeding where nose-to-nose contact is enhanced; 4) require four points on a side for bucks taken below the line running south of Manistee to Iosco counties-require three points on a side for all bucks north of this line; 5) limit to one buck per year

until the doe-to-buck ratio is 2:1; 6) continue to educate hunters to not harvest button bucks; and 7) have an antlerless season in October versus a late antlerless season.

**Micheal Thiede, Lincoln Park,** supports the Island Lake Shooting Range as a safe and proper place for those to enjoy the shooting sports to practice their skills as well as compete with others.

**Geo Fuhst, Redford,** supports keeping the Island Lake Shooting Range open. He believes the NRC is moving in the right direction with testing and resolving sound issues. He volunteered to help construct buffers if needed.

**Ken Peterson, Flat Rock,** supports the Island Lake Shooting Range.

**Ronald Umphrey, Clare,** opposes mandatory QDM in DMU 118.

**Chauncy Moran** opposes sulfur mining in the UP and specifically in the Yellow Dog River. He is concerned that there are no guarantees that mining activities will not affect the quality of the river. **Mr. Moran** supports reviewing mineral policies in Michigan.

**Susan Anderson, Milford,** is not opposed to hunting, but said the sounds from the Island Lake Shooting Range are annoying and supports sound reduction from the Range.

**Ed Ingvarlsen, Ionia,** supports educating hunters relative to deer management rather than imposing mandatory QDM.

**Barbara Stockford, Hillsdale,** supports keeping the Island Lake Shooting Range open as it is used by many citizens.

**Jeanne Kidle, Flint,** supports keeping the Island Lake Shooting Range open and believes that the DNR and NRC are doing everything possible to resolve sound issues from the Range.

**Tim Rice, Brighton,** requested that the sound levels from the Island Lake Shooting Range be reduced to 65 decibels at the property line and asked for assurance that everything is being done to address the sound issues.

**Mike Borst, Multi-Lakes Conservation Association,** has utilized the multi-lakes shooting range for many years. He also utilized the Island Lake Shooting Range and said there is a public need for this Range. He supports leaving the Range operation as is currently while attempting to improve sound issues.

**James Fackert, Green Oak Township,** was on the original planning committee for siting a range in the area. The current location of the Island Lake Shooting Range was the only place in the area for siting a range as it has background highway noise to help masque the sounds. He does not believe that best sound practices are being practiced at the Range and encouraged the DNR to utilize the best expertise available to resolve the sound problems. **Mr. Fackert** supports a reduction of hours at the range. He believes the range can work and appreciates the effort being taken and future efforts to resolve sound issues.

\* \* \*

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2004 and reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 2, 2004.

\* \* \*

**Chairman Charters** welcomed students from the Michigan State University School of Natural Resources.

#### **DIRECTOR'S POSITION – CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS**

The following individuals have been selected to interview on April 19, 2004 for the position of Director of the DNR:

- Stephen D. Dice, Director of Parks Operations, Cleveland, OH Metroparks
- Calvin W. DuBrock, Wildlife Management Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Rebecca Humphries, Chief, Wildlife Division, MI Department of Natural Resources
- Mark VanPutten, former President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation
- Rodney A. Stokes, Director, Gainesville Florida Recreation and Parks Department
- Michael Zagata, Executive Director & Mgr. for Environment, NRG Energy

#### **Emerald Ash Borer Update**

**Bob Heyd, Forest, Minerals and Fire Management Division**, described the emerald ash borer as a green metallic beetle that girdles trees by boring into the cambium of ash trees. Eventually, this activity kills the tree. The core of the infestation is in southeast Michigan but infestations have spread outside the core area through transportation of trees stocks and fire wood from the infested area. Currently, no ash materials can be moved from quarantined counties. Research is being conducted on ways to address the infestations by means other than destroying the trees. No sale or movement of ash nursery stock is allowed in the Lower Peninsula. Many State parks, State forests and National forests have ash trees that will be surveyed this year to see if the ash borer is being moved in firewood. **Dr. Heyd** noted that the State is will create bait ash trees which attract beetles if present in the area. Multiple state and federal agencies are engaged in research, survey and management efforts to deal quickly and effectively with this newest threat to Michigan's forest resource.

#### **Gaylord-to-Cheboygan Trail:**

**Mindy Koch, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division**, said in 2002, snowmobilers requested to reopen the Mullett Lake stretch of the Cheboygan-to-Gaylord Trail. In April 2003, a workgroup was established to address this issue. The Workgroup proposed an option for a snowmobile trail through the Pigeon River Forest. The Workgroup presented their proposed option to the Pigeon River Advisory Council at their March meeting. The Advisory Council recommended that the proposal be rejected based on the unique natural resource characteristics of the the Pigeon river Country State Forest.

Addressing the Cheboygan-to-Gaylord Trail issues needs to move forward including addressing trespass issues on State property along the trail.

The NRC conceptually supported the Workgroup's recommendations realizing that there were two major issues that needed to be resolved: 1) move forward and develop a way for the trail to cross I-75 of which is being addressed with Michigan Department of Transportation; 2) develop a trail system through the Pigeon River Forest.

**Ms. Koch** recommended that the Workgroup continue to explore options for an alternative snowmobile trail with the Pigeon River Advisory Council, which include a concept of an nongroomed section of trail through the PRCSF.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** questioned if the Mullett Lake segment of the trail could be opened, but not groomed. Ms. Koch responded that request would have to go back to the Michigan



Natural Resources Trust Fund Board as it was purchased by the Board for non-motorized use. **Commissioner Wheatlake** recommended that the Department request that the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board remove the non motorized restrictions from the Mullett Lake section of the trail and at the same time continue to pursue all other options.

**Ms. Koch** stated that the survey of that segment of trail is nearly complete. Once complete, the DNR can move forward with addressing issues such as excess footage along the Trail, trespass issues, and trail development.

#### **Metallic Mineral Leases**

**Mindy Koch** reported that a workgroup is being established to review existing regulations on metallic minerals leases. This Workgroup will be diverse and will be co-chaired by Hal Fitch, Department of Environmental Quality and Ms. Koch. This review has been directed to occur in 120 days. She stated this will be a very aggressive schedule with a lot of complex regulations to review. The NRC asked that the DNR do a similar review of State metallic minerals leases and during that review, hold on all existing and all new applications.

**Ms. Koch** recommended holding new metallic minerals leases until the workgroup provides recommendations. If no recommendations are available in 90 days, the DNR will continue to review new and existing requests for leases and move forward to the point of public noticing. She recommended that the Director approve the leases on the agenda for action. No objection was received from the NRC.

#### **Conveyance of Dedicated State-owned Land for Public Use** **Onaway State Park – Presque Isle County** **Land Transaction Case #20040022 (Late Memo)**

The NRC concurred with this transaction conveying the parcel to the County to remain in public ownership for the purposes of public recreational use.

#### **Hudson Mills Metropark Natural Rivers Permit Request**

**Director Cool** recalled Thursday's brief presentation by Huron Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA) Director Gary Bartsch and HCMA planner Dan Duncan about their proposal to build a bridge for non-motorized, public use over the Huron River within Hudson Mills Metropark. HCMA is coming to the Department because this location falls within a stretch of the Huron River that has been designated under the State's Natural Rivers Program.

In most cases, new bridges are prohibited on those portions of rivers designated under the Natural Rivers Program. However, **Director Cool** announced that it was his intention to authorize the construction of this bridge for public, non-motorized traffic. He has personally visited the site.

**Director Cool** mentioned that in these times of limited budgets and limited travel, our Department asked HCMA to organize and conduct a public hearing last winter on this permit issue on our behalf. HCMA held that public hearing in Hudson Mills Metropark within walking distance of the site proposed for the bridge. In addition to requiring HCMA to provide us with a full report of the public hearing, we also had staff present at the hearing to directly listen to the public comments. **Director Cool** has reviewed the hearing report that HCMA prepared and has talked to some of our staff who attended. He has also reviewed all of the emails he received on this subject. He has reviewed the summary of comments prepared by our Natural Rivers staff including their recommendation to deny HCMA's permit application.

After careful consideration he and senior staff believe that it is appropriate to permit HCMA to build this bridge as proposed. This bridge is intended specifically for public, non-motorized crossings. It is entirely within a publicly owned and operated park, a park which also provides protection from encroachment to a significant stretch of the Huron River. The proposed bridge site is located at a bend in the river both to provide a beautiful view of a natural river to those citizens on the bridge, but also to minimize the bridge's visibility to those folks who are floating down the river. The bridge construction as proposed, places the structure well back from the river to have minimal natural resource impact. The proposed bridge completes a trail loop and creates the opportunity to educate many thousands of Michigan citizens who do not own boats about the splendor and value of natural rivers and the State's Natural Rivers Program.

In addition to these considerations, the Department needs to consider that with Michigan's Natural Rivers authority under fire, it is important to demonstrate that it has and is applied with reasonable flexibility. Director Cool intends to give HCMA the permission required from this Department to build the bridge in Hudson Mills Metropark as proposed for non-motorized, public use. Granting permission in this special situation does not set any precedent for other bridge proposals or any future Directors.

**Commissioner Brown** asked whether it was HCMA's commitment to place the bridge abutments well back from the river. **Director Cool** said it would be done. All Commissioners present expressed their support for permitting HCMA to build the bridge as proposed.

#### **Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor**

**Director Cool** narrated a power point presentation to update the Commission on construction progress at Tri-Centennial Harbor and Phase one of the State Park. The renovated State Harbor and new State Park celebrate the 300th anniversary of the founding of Detroit by Cadillac. The Director noted that this is the first urban State Park in Michigan and that he had been involved in this project since he arrived in April of 1996.

Funding for the improvements at the harbor was provided by a \$4 million dollar appropriation from the Waterways Fund and for phase 1 of the Park by a \$4 million dollar grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

**Cool** announced that a Dedication Ceremony has been scheduled for May 20, 2004 at 2:00 PM. The Waterways Commission will host the event. **Governor Granholm and Mayor Kilpatrick** of Detroit will join the Director in opening the Harbor by cutting a nautical line of Tri-Centennial flags from the DNR's 43-foot Law Enforcement boat. The Governor and Mayor will then deliver a keynote address and unveil the dedication plaques.

A 60 ft. harbor safety light which is a replica of the Tawas Lighthouse built in 1876, was constructed at the entrance of the harbor. It is the first brick conical light tower constructed in Michigan since 1892. Like the Tawas Lighthouse, the light tower will be up lighted on May 20th. The Tri-Centennial harbor safety light will become a symbol of DNR's presence in our largest urban city as well as a location for interpretation of Michigan's rich maritime history.

In addition, the fisheries research vessel "Chinook" will also be featured at the dedication. This 57 year old boat will be retired next year when its replacement, the "Chinook 2" is christened. The "Chinook" will then be moored in the historic dry dock with all equipment to become a permanent exhibit and floating classroom which will interpret Great Lakes Fisheries research.

#### **DIRECTOR'S ACTION ITEMS**

**Director Cool** intends to sign all Director's Action Items on the Agenda, including the Late Memo.

**Director Cool** stated he will not attend the May NRC meeting as he has a scheduling conflict.

#### **2004 NRC GOALS**

**GOAL:** To assure the people of Michigan, especially policymakers, resource users, and potential users have appropriate, easily accessible and timely information and services to assure appropriate use and protection of Michigan's natural resources. Recruitment, retention and mentoring of young people so that they are introduced to and enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, boating and other outdoors pursuits are paramount to the NRC Policy Committee on Technology, Information, Marketing and Education mission.

**Commissioner Garner made a motion, supported by Commissioner Hall, for adoption. Motion unanimously carried.**

**GOAL:** The NRC and the Department will work with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to develop a long-term solution to Payment In-Lieu of Taxes. The NRC will provide support for any Legislative changes necessary and will work to garner constituent support for those changes.

**Commissioner Wheatlake made a motion, supported by Commissioner Madigan, for adoption. Motion unanimously carried.**

#### **NRC POLICY COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE ISSUES - REPORT**

**Commissioner Garner (Committee Chair)** reported that a meeting of the NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife Issues was held on April 1, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. in the Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing. Commissioners Garner and Hall were present for the Committee. Topics of discussion included the proposed wildlife regulations and a presentation from the U.S. Forest Service on cooperative deeryard management in the UP.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 4-5, 2004 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Garner made a motion, supported by Commission Madigan, for approval, Motion unanimously carried.**

#### **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT PILOT STUDY, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER AMENDMENT NO. 4 OF 2004**

**Commissioner Garner made a motion, supported by Commissioner Hall, for approval. Motion unanimously carried.**

#### **DIRECTOR'S CANDIDATE INTERVIEW – APRIL 19, 2004**

**Commissioner Garner made a motion, supported by Commissioner Wheatlake, to formally approve the list of interview candidates as reported earlier being:**

- Stephen D. Dice, Director of Parks Operations, Cleveland, OH Metroparks
- Calvin W. DuBrock, Wildlife Management Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Rebecca Humphries, Chief, Wildlife Division, MI Department of Natural Resources
- Mark VanPutten, former President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation
- Rodney A. Stokes, Director, Gainesville Florida Recreation and Parks Department
- Michael Zagata, Executive Director & Mgr. for Environment, NRG Energy

**Motion unanimously carried.**

**Commissioner Reports**

**Commissioner Garner** attended a number of meetings and fund raisers, and received several phone calls and mail relative to DNR issues.

**Commissioner Brown** attended a meeting of Allegan County Florists and was involved in the management plan update; visited the Rogue River to observe property damage caused by an arrant shooter; visited the Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery; and discussed dam repair issues with the Wilder Creek Conservation Club.

**Commissioner Wheatlake** noted that the sand hill cranes are back and he was able to view them near his home; and he announced that the NRC Policy Committee on Finance and Administration will meet on April 30.

**Commissioner Hall** reported there is a lot of coyote hunting occurring in his area; worked with the Island Lake Shooting Range issue and encouraged the DNR to continue dialog with the acoustics specialist Scott Hansen as well as the nearby residents to resolve sound issues at the Range and still maintain the quality of the range.

**Commissioner Madigan** reported that fishers are catching coho in Munising Bay; he received several calls relative to DMU 118; and attended meetings with UP hunting groups. He reported that on May 8, 2004 the UP Habitat Workgroup will hold a meeting in Marquette followed by a public listening session.

**Chairman Charters** went crow hunting with Commissioner Garner; and is watching the dove bill closely.

**NATURAL RIVERS**

**Michael Leffler, Legal Counsel**, discussed the process for Natural Rivers cases and the role of the NRC in those cases. He advised the NRC not to conduct oral argument on Natural Rivers cases that have already been heard by the Administrative Law Judge and a subsequent Proposal for Decision prepared. He also advised the Commissioners that, if they intend to conclude on a case differently than that of the Proposal for Decision, that the entire record be reviewed and that the intent stated per the legal record and evidence on that case.

**Chairman Charters** asked **Mr. Leffler** clarify what constitutes watercraft usage on Natural Rivers.

\* \* \*

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.